(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report for the year ended 31st March, 1992 (No. 1 of 1993) (Civil) has pointed out that while auditing the accounts of 2783 branches of 78 banks they have noted some irregularities resulting in irregular or excess payment of interest subsidy amounting to Rs. 7.68 crores between January, 1987 and March, 1991. Following the Audit, Rs. 2.66 crores has been refunded by the banks to RBI upto 30th Sept., '91. The balance amount Rs. 5.02 crore is yet to be refunded.

(c) The reports of Government auditors relating to individual branches of scheduled commercial banks are received by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and audit objections are taken up with the concerned branches of banks for settlement. Wherever interest subsidy has been wrongly claimed by banks, recoveries are effected and in case the objections raised by CAG auditors are not in conformity with procedures laid down by RBI, the position is duly explained to CAG's Office for dropping the objections. After abolition of the Export Credit (Interest Subsidy) Scheme, 1968 w.e.f. 6th August, 1991, RBI have directed all scheduled commercial banks to expedite compliance reports on outstanding audit objections.

Crash in tea prices hitting nilgiri tea plants

1818. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small tea planters of the Nilgiris are in distress over the sudden crash in the prices of tea and have urged the Central Government to declare a minimum support price of Rs. 40/- per kg. and encourage exports to Russia and other CIS countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the small tea growers of South India requesting the Government to fix a minimum support price of Rs. 40/- per kg. and also take steps for augmenting exports to Russia and CIS countries in view of the problems being faced by them due to decline in the prices of tea.

(c) The current decline in prices is mainly due to the lower off take of Indian teas by Russian buyers coupled with over supply of tea due to higher production during 1993. Efforts are being made to step up exports of tea. In this connection, Russian authorities nave been requested to procure higher quantities of teas from India under the debt repayment mechanism. A delegation had also visited Iran recently to sort out issue regarding delays in opening of LCs by Iranian authorities in respect of contracts signed for exports of tea to that country. It is expected that with the exports picking up, the prices of teas at various auction contres will also go up.

Indo-Israel trade

1819. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items of Indian exports to Israel during the last two years and their value earnings in dollar terms;

(b) the items of Indian imports from Israel during the same period and their value paid in dollar terms;

(c) whether the trade balance has been in favour of Israel; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to get a favourable trade balance with Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The

main items of India's exports to Israel during the last two years were gems & jewellery, cotton manmade yarn, fawrisc, madoups, cashew, spices, handicrafts, engineering goods, organic/inorganic chemicals, etc. The value of India's exports to Israel during 1992-93 and 1993-94 amounted to US $ 90 million and US $ 130 million respectively

(b) The main items of India's imports from Israel during the last two years were fertilizers, pearls, precious & semi precious stones, organic/inorganic chemicals and other crude minerals, machinery, petroleum products, etc. The value of India's imports from Israel during 1992-93 and 1993-94 amounted to US $ 140 million and US $ 300 million respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The measures taken by Government to promote our exports to Israel include participation in fairs in Israel and encouraging Israeli businessmen to participate in fairs in India in order to project India's export capabilities, facilitating direct contacts between the businessmne of the two countries, sponsoring of trade delegations, finalisation of Trade Agreement, etc.

प्रति व्यापार नीति

1820. **श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन जैन** : क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के कुल निर्यात में वस्तु विनिमय व्यापार के अंश को बढ़ाने के लिए नई प्रति व्यापार नीति तैयार की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि विश्व में प्रति व्यापार में वृद्धि हो रही है और भारत इस क्षेत्र में प्रमुख भागीदार नहीं बन पा रहा है ;

(घ) यदि हां तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ङ) सरकार की वर्तमान प्रति व्यापार नीति क्या है ;

(च) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रति व्यापार के अंतर्गत किए गए प्रमुख सौदों का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(छ) वर्ष 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम, खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम और परियोजना और उपस्कर निगम द्वारा प्रति व्यापार के अंतर्गत किए गए निर्यात का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) से (घ) कुल विश्व व्यापार से संबंधित प्रति-व्यापार की मात्रा के बारे में सही-सही आंकड़ों की कमी है। फिर भी, आमतौर पर यह विश्वास किया जाता है कि इसमें वृद्धि हो रही है। भारत के कुल निर्यात में प्रति-व्यापार निर्यात का अंश वर्ष 1992–93 में लगभग 1.5 था।

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में प्रति-व्यापार (सी टी) नीति की समीक्षा का प्रयास किया है। इस नई नीति का उद्देश्य होगा कि प्रति-व्यापार प्रणाली के जरिए भारतीय निर्यात को बढ़ाया जाए।

(ङ) मौजूदा नीति में प्रति-व्यापार की तीन विस्तृत श्रेणियों की व्यवस्था की गयी है :–

(1) सरकार द्वारा अथवा सरकारी क्षेत्र द्वारा की गई प्रमुख खरीद के बदले प्रति-व्यापार।

(2) एस्क्रो लेखे के जरिए प्रति-व्यापार।

(3) साक्ष्य लेखा तंत्र के जरिए प्रति-व्यापार

फिलहाल प्रमुख खरीद के बदले प्रति-व्यापार के प्रावधान सरकारी विभागों अथवा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों द्वारा किए जाने वाले प्रमुख आयातों की कुछ